

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A support structure for supporting a power transmission device and a change-direction transmission device, the support structure comprising:

an input shaft and an output shaft for input and output of driving force, the input shaft and the output shaft being coupled by the power transmission device;

a power transmission device coupling the input shaft with the output shaft;

a housing member housing the input shaft, the output shaft and the power transmission device;

a pair of first bearings aligned in an axial direction, the first bearings rotatably supporting the input shaft with respect to the housing member, the first bearings having the power transmission device disposed therebetween; and

a pair of second bearings aligned in an axial direction, the second bearings rotatably supporting the output shaft with respect to the housing member; and

wherein the power transmission device is disposed between the pair of the first bearings, and at least any one pair of the first bearings and the second bearings are disposed in the vicinity of an input/output device for input/output the driving force to the input shaft and the output shaft a housing member for housing the input shaft, the output shaft, the first bearings, the second bearings, the power transmission device and the change-direction transmission device, the housing member including a main body which supports both one of the first bearings and one of the second bearings.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (original) The support structure of claim 1, wherein:
the power transmission device is disposed so as to respectively abut shaft side members of
the pair of the second bearings.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The support structure of claim 1, wherein:
the ~~housing member~~ main body comprises a wall portion, and
the first bearings are rotatably supported by the wall portion.

Claim 5 (original) The support structure of claim 4, wherein:
the wall portion further comprises an opening, and
the input shaft penetrates the opening so as to be coupled with the output shaft.

Claim 6 (currently amended) A gear mechanism for transferring driving force on a first shaft to a second shaft, the gear mechanism comprising:

a change-direction gear set to change a rotation direction of a the driving force at a right angle, the change-direction gear set comprising a first change-direction gear and a second change-direction gear;

an input shaft rotating coaxially and integrally with the second change-direction gear;

an output shaft disposed in parallel with the input shaft;

a power transmission device coupling the input shaft with the output shaft;

a housing member housing the input shaft, the output shaft and the power transmission device;

a pair of first bearings aligned in an axial direction, the first bearings rotatably supporting the input shaft with respect to the housing member, the pair of the first bearings having the power transmission device disposed therebetween;

a pair of second bearings aligned in an axial direction, the second bearings rotatably supporting the output shaft with respect to the housing member; and

a pair of third bearings rotatably supporting the first change-direction gear with respect to the housing member; and

wherein the power transmission device is disposed between the pair of the first bearings, and at least any one pair of the first bearings and the second bearings are disposed in the vicinity of the second change-direction gear a housing member for housing the input shaft, the output shaft, the first bearings, the second bearings, the third bearings and the power transmission device, the housing member including a first housing member, a second housing member, and a third housing

member, the first housing member supporting one of the first bearings, one of the second bearings, and one of the third bearings.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The gear mechanism of claim 6, wherein:

~~the housing member comprises a first housing member, a second housing member and a third housing member,~~

one of the pair of the first bearings, one of the pair of the second bearings and one of the pair of the third bearings are housed in the first housing member,

another of the pair of the first bearings and another of the pair of the second bearings are housed in the second housing member, and

another of the pair of the third bearings is housed in the third housing member.

Claim 8 (currently amended) A gear mechanism for transferring driving force on a first shaft to a second shaft, the gear mechanism comprising:

a change-direction gear set to change a rotation direction of a the driving force at a right angle, the change-direction gear set comprising a first change-direction gear and a second change-direction gear;

a first gear rotating coaxially and integrally with the second change-direction gear;

a second gear disposed in parallel with and engaged with the first gear;

a third gear disposed in parallel with and engaged with the second gear; and

a casing housing the change-direction gear set, the first gear, the second gear and the third gear, the casing including a main body which rotatably supports the change-direction gear set, the first gear, the second gear and the third gear, and covers for covering the main body so as to house the change-direction gear set, the first gear, the second gear and the third gear in the casing.

Claim 9 (original) The gear mechanism of claim 8, wherein the first change-direction gear coupled with an output of a transmission of a vehicle to transmit the output to the third gear, and further comprising a seal to prevent intrusion of oil in the transmission.

Claim 10 (original) The gear mechanism of claim 8, further comprising:

a pair of bearings, wherein at least any one of the first gear, the second gear and the third gear is disposed between the pair of the bearings.

Claim 11 (original) The gear mechanism of claim 10, wherein:
at least any one of the first gear, the second gear and the third gear is smaller in diameter
than the bearings.

Claim 12 (original) The gear mechanism of claim 8, wherein:
a plane formed by a rotation axis of the first gear and a rotation axis of the second gear and
another plane formed by the rotation axis of the second gear and a rotation axis of the third gear
form an angle smaller than 180 degrees and the rotation axis of the third gear is disposed in a
direction away from the rotation axis of the first change-direction gear.

Claim 13 (original) The gear mechanism of claim 8, wherein:
the second gear and the third gear are disposed offset in respective perpendicular directions
relative to the a rotation axis of a power transmission member coupled with the first change-
direction gear,
a rotation axis of the first gear is disposed offset in a direction away from the first change-
direction gear,
a rotation axis of the second gear is disposed offset in a direction closer to the first change-
direction gear than the rotation axis of the first gear, and
a rotation axis of the third gear is disposed offset in a direction more distant from the first
change-direction gear than the second gear.

Claim 14 (original) The gear mechanism of claim 8, wherein:
at least any one of the first change-direction gear and the second change-direction gear is
rotatably supported by a pair of bearings receiving force in an axial direction.

Claim 15 (original) The gear mechanism of claim 8, wherein:
the first gear is disposed between a pair of bearings rotatably supporting the second change-
direction gear and rotatably supported.

Claim 16 (original) The gear mechanism of claim 8, wherein:
at least any one of the first change-direction gear and the second change-direction gear
comprises a regulation device for regulating tooth contact and pressure of the change-direction gear
set by changing an axial direction.

Claim 17 (currently amended) The gear mechanism of claim 8, wherein:
a pair of bearings supporting the second gear ~~are roller bearings having cylindrical or
needle-like rolling bodies~~ include roller bearings selected from the group of cylindrical roller
bearings and needle bearings.

Claim 18 (original) The gear mechanism of claim 17, further comprising:
a positioning device configured to position the roller bearings in an axial direction.

Claim 19 (original) The gear mechanism of claim 8, wherein:
any of the first gear, the second gear and the third gear are helical gears.